

## DPI 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

### DECISION ITEM 5003 – RECOLLECTION WISCONSIN

383 – *Recollection Wisconsin*  
s. 20.255 (3)(er)

FISCAL SUMMARY		
	2021-22 Request	2022-23 Request
<b>Requested Funding</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>Less Base</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Requested Change</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$300,000</b>

### Request

The department requests \$150,000 GPR in FY22 and \$300,000 GPR in FY23 to provide a dedicated funding source for Recollection Wisconsin. The department also requests a reduction to its appropriation for the WISELearn digital learning portal (see DIN 4005), as well as a reduction in the appropriation for Pupil Assessments (see DIN 4004), to offset the requested increase for Recollection Wisconsin.

### Background

Started by local libraries as a grassroots movement, Recollection Wisconsin brings together digital cultural heritage resources from Wisconsin libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies, and shares them with the world in partnership with the Digital Public Library of America. Recollection Wisconsin supports more than 200 Wisconsin libraries, museums, and other cultural heritage institutions, aiding those institutions in digitizing and sharing photographs, maps, letters, diaries, oral histories, artifacts, and other historical resources. This helps Wisconsin knowledge centers that may not otherwise have the resources or capacity to bring their collections into a digital format.

Recollection Wisconsin offers a Digital Projects Toolkit, which provides free resources for all steps of digitization, such as planning, copyright, scanning, metadata, and storage. Recollection Wisconsin provides services and benefits to students, teachers, genealogists, academic researchers, and all Wisconsinites who want to learn and explore the state's history.<sup>5</sup>

Recollection Wisconsin is a consortium administered by WiLS<sup>6</sup> and managed by seven governing partners: WiLS, the Wisconsin Historical Society, UW-Milwaukee, UW-Madison, the Milwaukee Public Library, Marquette University, and the department. Primary support has been provided by the department, previously with federal Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds (distributed by the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services [IMLS]), and currently, with GPR from the WISELearn appropriation (see Table 1).

<sup>5</sup> <https://recollectionwisconsin.org/about/overview>

<sup>6</sup> WiLS (formally Wisconsin Library Services) is a non-profit membership organization that facilitates collaborative projects and services to save members time and money and to advance library service, primarily in the state of Wisconsin. Most members are libraries, but WiLS also works with cultural institutions, government agencies, and other non-profits to develop partnerships and projects. (<https://www.wils.org/about-wils/>)

Between FY15 and FY19, the department provided approximately \$50,000 annually for Recollection Wisconsin from its federal LSTA allocation. In FY20, the department provided \$132,000, solely from the GPR appropriation for WISELearn. The funds are provided as grants to WiLS; the department does not provide Recollection Wisconsin with direct personnel support. See Table 1, below.

**Table 1. Department Support for Recollection Wisconsin**

Fiscal Year	Fund Source / Appropriation		
	LSTA (Federal)	WISELearn (State)	Recollection Wisconsin (State)
FY15	\$37,576		
FY16	\$50,000		
FY17	\$50,000		
FY18	\$52,000		
FY19	\$52,000		
FY20	\$0	\$132,000	
FY21	*	*	
FY22 – Proposal			\$150,000
FY23 – Proposal			\$300,000

*\*The initial estimate for FY21 support from the WISELearn appropriation was \$150,000; however, the actual allocation for Recollection Wisconsin has not been determined for FY21, and may be less than \$150,000 (or possibly zero) as the department is in the process of determining a reduction to its GPR operating budget (to which the WISELearn appropriation is subject).*

In addition to the funding provided by the department, the organization receives support from in-kind contributions, hosting fees, and other grants, such as the IMLS Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century guardian grant (2017-2019), the National Endowment for the Humanities (2016-2020), the Nicholas Family Foundation (2009-2017), the Jane Bradley Pettit Foundation (2017), and the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation (2015-2016).<sup>7</sup>

The resources provided by Recollection Wisconsin are vitally important to public libraries in rural communities, which may not otherwise be able to digitize and make their collections more accessible to library patrons. In contrast, larger libraries, such as those in suburban areas and city-centers, have greater capacity to expand the digitization of their collections. Recollection Wisconsin works to bridge this divide between rural and suburban/urban areas of the state.

Currently, the majority of the department’s support for Recollection Wisconsin comes from federal LSTA grants and the GPR appropriation for WISELearn. Because these funding streams support other work in the department, there is no guarantee from year to year that funding will be available for Recollection Wisconsin. Without a stable, ongoing source of funding to support its work, Recollection Wisconsin will be less able to provide stable, ongoing support to libraries across the state. That loss of support will have the greatest impact on public libraries in Wisconsin’s rural communities.

<sup>7</sup> <https://recollectionwisconsin.org/about/funding>

Creating a dedicated, GPR appropriation for Recollection Wisconsin would provide a stable fund source for the work of digitizing historic materials in public libraries throughout the state, and in particular, in the rural parts of the state. The Wisconsin Libraries Association (WLA) indicates that if provided, a dedicated state appropriation would support project management, content hosting and management, staff training, and technology related costs.

## **Proposal**

The department requests the creation of a dedicated GPR appropriation to provide a permanent source of state support for Recollection Wisconsin, at \$150,000 GPR in FY22 and \$300,000 GPR in FY23, The department's request would have no net impact on the state's general fund, as the request includes a commensurate decrease in the appropriation for WISELearn. The department's request is supported by the WLA.

## **Statutory Language**

The department requests that a new GPR annual appropriation be created for Recollection Wisconsin, in the department's Chapter 20 appropriations schedule, under Program 03: Aids to Libraries, Individuals, and Organization.

DPI 2021-23 BIENNIAL BUDGET REQUEST

DECISION ITEM 4005 – WISELEARN

110 – Digital learning portal (WISELearn)  
s. 20.255 (1)(eL)

FISCAL SUMMARY		
	2021-22 Request	2022-23 Request
Requested Funding	\$1,359,000	\$1,359,000
Less Base	\$1,209,000	\$1,159,000
Requested Change	-\$150,000	-\$200,000

**Request**

The department requests that the appropriation for WISELearn be decreased, by \$150,000 GPR in FY22 and by \$200,000 GPR in FY23, and to reallocate the GPR budget authority for a dedicated funding source for Recollection Wisconsin, as proposed by the department in its 2021-23 biennial budget request. See DIN 5003 for more information about the Recollection Wisconsin project.

**Statutory Language**

The department is not requesting statutory language changes for this request.